

MINUTES
of the
SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DATE: April 24, 2001

PLACE: 550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Deborah Looker, Directors John Britton, and Lee Moldaver, and General Manager Gary Gleason

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Medel (Downtown Organization), Gil Garcia and Dave Johnson (City of Santa Barbara), Alex Pujo (COAST), David Damiano, Martin Erickson, Jerry Estrada, Steve Maas, John Murdoch, and Jill Yarussi (MTD)

- 1. Call to Order**
Chair Looker called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.
- 2. Roll Call of the Board of Directors**
Chair Looker noted that all directors were present but Director Udd and Director Untermann.
- 3. Report Regarding Posting of Agenda**
General Manager Gary Gleason reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters one week prior to the meeting and mailed to local media of general circulation.
- 4. Approval of Prior Minutes**
Director Britton moved to waive the reading of and approve the minutes for the meeting of April 10, 2001. Director Moldaver seconded the motion. A vote on the motion was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- 5. Cash Report and Payment of Claims**
Director Moldaver moved to adopt the cash report and payment of claims for the period of April 3, 2001 through April 17, 2001. Director Britton seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion to approve the cash report was passed by a unanimous vote of the board.
- 6. Public Comment**
Gil Garcia, Councilmember for the City of Santa Barbara, stated that a group called Transportation Equity will challenge the use of unmet transit needs funding for purposes other than transit in the north county. Councilmember Garcia also requested that the MTD provide a

summary sheet to the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) that outlines the status of the South Coast Transit Plan projects.

Bill Medel, a member of the Downtown Organization (DO) and the Downtown Parking and Transportation Committee, told the board that the committees are promoting an alternative transportation day, where employees at downtown businesses will be encouraged to ride the bus, a bike or walk to work one day each week. Chair Looker suggested that Mr. Medel contact the MTD Marketing Department for assistance and MTD cooperation.

Dave Johnson, Public Works Director for the City of Santa Barbara, was present to observe and participate.

7. Presentation by Transitworks

The General Manager introduced the MTD Transitworks team and stated that the team will update the board on a number of current and future transit projects. Mr. Gleason stated that this team will make a similar presentation to the Santa Barbara City Council.

Martin Erickson, MTD Manager of Government Relations, stated that the Transitworks team is working to bring enhanced transit services and expanded routes into the community of Santa Barbara. Mr. Erickson described several enhancements, including the electrification of the Line 3, the early implementation of the Crosstown Shuttle, transit technical assistance and continued cooperation with the City of Santa Barbara. Mr. Erickson stated that the MTD is working with the City to further the City's goal of making the use of a car a choice, rather than a necessity.

David Damiano, Manager of Community Relations, reviewed the new MTD website and discussed the importance of a common design to make the service more recognizable. Mr. Damiano also explained the trip planner function, which allows passengers to enter their origin and destination; the trip planner will provide the routes and schedule necessary to make the trip. Lastly, Mr. Damiano noted that interactive kiosks will be placed at several locations in town, for additional website access for the public.

8. Presentation on the Proposed Downtown Transit Corridor and Superstop Location

John Murdoch, MTD Transportation Planner, described the proposed downtown corridor and grid format on which the buses will travel. Mr. Murdoch noted that survey information was used to discern where routes intersect, where transfers between buses could be reduced and consequently, where to locate enhanced bus stops, or Superstops. The logistics of this proposed system still need to be resolved according to Mr. Murdoch, and MTD staff is currently working on this aspect of the plan.

The General Manager thanked the MTD staff for their efforts and acknowledged that there are still many considerations that must be reviewed. Director Britton urged MTD staff to continue working with the City of Santa Barbara and Director Moldaver requested that a synopsis of the transit corridor and Superstops be created for presentations.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the Transitworks team include bus designs and sizes for the Crosstown Shuttle. Councilmember Garcia stated that Superstops should be like small transit centers that include many passenger amenities. Councilmember Garcia also noted that the stop at State Street and Alamar might be a good location for a Superstop. Director Moldaver suggested that the MTD show how this service will mitigate traffic and congestion downtown.

9. General Manager's Report

The General Manager distributed several new MTD publications and noted that more presentations on service enhancements will be given to the board. Mr. Gleason added that staff is working hard to prioritize and complete these projects.

The General Manager noted that he will meet with the Director of Caltrans in Sacramento to discuss the MTD and City of Santa Barbara transit projects and that he is developing funding resources to implement the programs.

Mr. Gleason stated that the MTD is working with other transit systems to fully implement the farebox system and eliminate outstanding complications.

The General Manager showed the board a revised organization chart but noted that it will not be finalized until the Transitworks Manager is selected. Mr. Gleason also showed the board a copy of the MTD's Transit Development Act submission.

Mr. Gleason stated that the quarterly ridership report and the quarterly budget report will be postponed. The General Manager noted that an agreement to move forward with the facility soil analysis has been signed by the MTD, Semptra and Southern California Edison.

Mr. Gleason noted that the Ventura/Santa Barbara commuter service is open for re-bidding, but that a "living wage" clause must be added for MTD to emerge as a "low" bidder and win.

10. Other Business and Committee Reports

Director Britton requested that MTD planning staff communicate with the SBCAG board via written summaries that readily outline project progress.

11. Adjournment

Director Moldaver moved to adjourn the meeting and Director Britton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.